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28 NOV 1961

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TCS-10571-61-KH
27 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, NPIC

SUBJECT: Proposed U. S. Air Force Reports

REFERENCE: TH-5399-61/KH, dated 16 November 1961

1. DMD fails to see any advantage to NPIC in the proposed Air Force reports, Catalog of Target Coverage, Area Coverage Summary and Coverage Summary Plot. The following comments are submitted in response to your request dated 22 November 1961.

2. The Catalog of Target Coverage would be a very ambitious project. It is very questionable that the results would be worth the effort. The catalog is apparently intended to satisfy two (2) purposes: (a) provide an index of available photography pertaining to specific targets; (b) serve as a guide to outstanding reconnaissance requirements as an aid to mission planning and justification. Judgement as to its value for the latter purpose should be made by COMOR or other operational authorities.

3. The value of the catalog as an index of material pertaining to specific targets appears limited. The entries in the Catalog would be subject to all the problems of definition inherent in the UPIR form. (See DMD memo TCS-10564-61/KH.) Established targets are covered by NPIC Target Briefs which list both photography and reports related to the specific target. Every attempt is made to keep the Target Briefs up-to-date. Reports and some photography are also recoverable from the IBM and Minicard files maintained by NPIC. These files do not include a qualitative evaluation of photography but we have found that when a conscientious PI researches a specific target, he looks up all pertinent photography regardless of its quality, percent of cloud coverage, percent of snow coverage, shadow definition, or resolution. For locating photography of new targets we have found the WAC plots to be the most reliable. This method, however, is somewhat cumbersome and eventually it may be desirable to use machine methods to list frames of photography covering a specific location. The Air Force proposal of 18 October 1961 would accomplish this.

4. The entries in the proposed Air Force Catalog concerning command requirements and priorities do not give sufficient information

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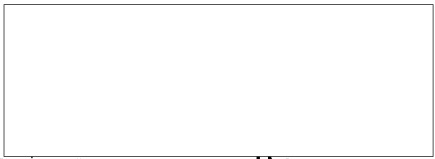
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to permit meaningful judgements to be made at the national level. They do not provide any details concerning the requirements of a readout and consequently, can not be of any particular assistance to the PI. The priorities appear only vaguely defined. Apparently they stem from the organizations originating the requirements and do not reflect a unified priority scale.

5. Both the Area Coverage Summary and the Summary Coverage Plot would appear to cover the same objectives as the Air Force memorandum of 18 October 1961, which has been thoroughly discussed elsewhere.

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Chief, Data Management Division,
NPIC

Enclosures:

TH-5399-61KH Copy 5 & 6 w/att.

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